

APRIL 29, 1965

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RUSSIA ARRESTS LONDON TEACHER

'SOME MISTAKE, HE'S
NOT
THE
BOND
TYPE'

Evening Standard Reporters

Gerry Brooke?
Yes, know him well. He was never the James Bond type. He's just a

nice young man."

Italian-born Mrs. Emma Hearder was speaking. Mrs. Hearder, whose husband, Dr. Harry Hearder is a senior lecturer in history at the London School of Economics, formerly let a flat in Ravenna Road, Putney, to Gerry and his wife.

"I'm sure he's not involved in anything sinister. This is incredible. It cannot be anything other than a terrible mistake."

Nice and friendly

Mrs. Hearder, now living with her husband in West Hill, Wandsworth, said that the flat in Ravenna Road was let by her husband to a man called David Thompson when she and her husband went to America on business for 10 months.

"Before we went away," she

said, "Gerald and Barbara came up from Exeter, where he had been working, to see Mr. Thompson, with whom they were friendly."

"The couple were looking for a house to buy in London. They have been married for about three years."

"They looked at the flat and decided to share it with Mr. Thompson. They stayed there from September 1963 to June 1964 while we were away."

"We met them socially a few

LECTURERS—continued

G. Brooke, B.A. (LOND.), DIP. ED. (OXON.)
Mr. V. Chalder

From the college prospectus.

times. They were a nice friendly couple. They spent some of their spare time decorating the flat and in looking for a house."

"Gerald is a quiet, decent young man. I don't know his politics but he is very much concerned with his job and I am

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HOLBORN COLLEGE

OF LAW LANGUAGE AND COMMERCE

Where Mr. Brooke works as a lecturer.

sure his interests are purely academic."

Gerry Brooke? Yes, remember him well.

Mr. David Jewkes, head of the Department of German and Russian at Hele's school, Exeter, was speaking.

Recalled Mr. Jewkes:

"Mr. Brooke was on our staff from September 1961 to July 1963. He taught Russian, French and was Scoutmaster of the school scout troop.

In the choir

"From us he became a lecturer at the Holborn College of Law, Languages and Commerce, where his task was to teach a crash course to teachers of Russian. He took his degree in Russian, an honours degree at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies of London University.

He had a year in Moscow as an official exchange student. He did a teacher's training course for one year at Oxford University before he came to us."

Slim and dark-bearded Gerry was popular with staff and boys. Said a colleague: "He is a very pleasant, easy-going young man. He sang in the school choir."

A friend of his was maths master Richard Vyvyan. And he said: "I had lunch with him and his wife in London a couple of months ago and he mentioned this trip to Russia. I believe they were going to Moscow and then on to Leningrad before returning to Britain."

George Deacon, 53-year-old bus inspector, recalled that Gerry was "in digs" with them in Cowick Lane, Exeter, from 1961 to 1963. "Gerry," said Mr. Deacon, "never drank or



MR. GERALD BROOKE
A holiday snap taken in the Scilly Isles about three years ago.

smoked. But he had a great love of books. Gerry Brooke, 28, and his wife are a nice young couple.

Speaking were neighbours of the Brookes in Highwood Avenue, Finchley.

Gerry and his wife live at No. 65

Some two weeks ago when the couple left, they did not draw the orange living-room curtains of their pebble-faced, pre-war house at the end of the quiet terrace.

On the open piano against one wall today stood an empty chocolate box. On a coffee table, a packet of chocolate biscuits and an AA handbook.

Side by side stood a television set and a radio. And, out in the hall, a blue satchel.

Like everybody around here, they keep very much to themselves," said a neighbour. "I have exchanged greetings with them. They are both very nice."

His beard? He shaved it off about a month ago.

Gerry Brooke? The one who knows him best, his grey-haired mother, Marion, living alone in a terrace-type house in Pearson Place, Sheffield, was keeping silent today.

Neighbours recalled that his father Edmund died four or five years ago. Gerald, they said, is an only child and a Queen's Scout.

He was a member of the 46 Norton (St. Paul's) Scout troop in Sheffield. Widow Violet Robinson, of Pearson Place, said her 26-year-old son Trevor went to primary school with Gerry.

"I was talking with Gerry's mother at Easter and she told me he was taking a party of students to Russia," she said. "He is a brilliant and clever lad."

"When he lived at home he was always highly respected and so is his family. He was always excellent at languages."

And finally Gerry Brooke, the teacher.

He is a full-time lecturer teaching Russian to secondary school teachers who are taking a year off from teaching to learn the language.

The course at Holborn is run by the Department of Education and Science and there are 40 pupils taking it. The teachers come from all over the country, on the recommendation of their local authorities and get paid a full salary while studying.

THE GIRL WHO WORKS IN A LIBRARY . . .

Barbara Brown, a librarian, married Gerry Brooke in a Sheffield Methodist church three years ago. They have no children.

Mrs. Brooke has been working at Camden Central Library in Avenue Road, Swiss Cottage, since the amalgamation of London boroughs.

At 25, she has reached the post of chief cataloguer—a job not normally attained until the early thirties.

Said Mr. William Maidment, Camden's chief librarian: "She has a very pleasant manner and gets on well with her colleagues."

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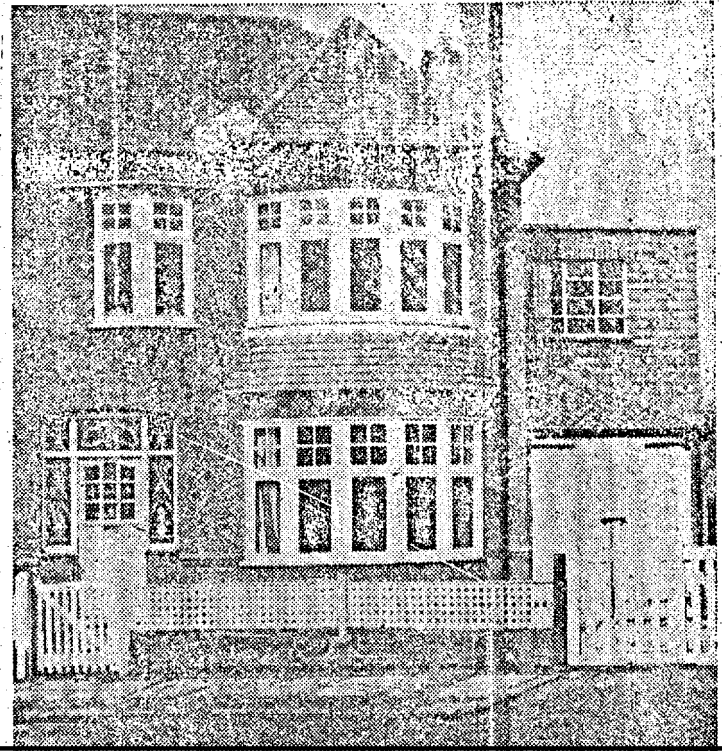
SCHOOL OF SLAVONIC AND
EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

CPYRGHT Where he took an honours degree.



When he was vice-captain of Firth Park Grammar School, Sheffield.

HIGHWOOD AVENUE



The Brooke home in Highwood Avenue, Finchley.

Envoy asks Moscow for details

Evening Standard Political
Correspondent

Sir Humphrey Trevelyan, British Ambassador, is urgently demanding details from the Soviet Foreign Ministry of charges being preferred against Mr. Brooke. In London a Foreign Office spokesman said the Foreign Affairs Ministry had not specified any of the charges but had only alleged Brooke's "involvement in subversive activities." It appears that this general description could cover a wide range of offences. It is usual in such cases involving a British citizen in the Soviet Union for the British authorities to experience great

difficulty in seeing any national who may be under arrest.

This is due to the fact that there is no consular convention between Britain and Russia of the type which exists between most other countries and usually provides that a consul should have immediate access to any national who has been arrested. ● The last Briton to be involved in serious trouble behind the Iron Curtain was the London businessman, Mr. Greville Wynne, who was arrested in Hungary in November 1962.

At a Moscow spy trial Mr. Wynne was sentenced to eight years in prison. He was released after 18 months and exchanged in Berlin for Gordon Lonsdale, the Russian master spy.

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